

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 OIC-02 COME-00 NSC-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00

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R 221550Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9676

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4909

S E C R E T USNATO 0320

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, NATO

SUBJECT: NAC MEETING JANUARY 22: AGENDA ITEM II - ANY OTHER BUSINESS:
US PROPOSAL FOR STUDY OF ECONOMIC ISSUES

REF.: A. STATE 12084

B. USNATO 0304

C. STATE 14476

1. AT COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 22, I MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
PROPOSING ONGOING AND HIGH LEVEL STUDY WITHIN NATO OF ECONOMIC
ASPECTS OF ATLANTIC SECURITY. BEGIN TEXT.

AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN DECEMBER, OUT
FOREIGN MINISTERS SHARED A COMMON, STRONGLY-FELT CONCERN OVER THE
IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES FOR THE COHESION
AND SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE
ALLIANCE SHOULD NOW TAKE ACTION ON THE BASIS OF THAT CONCERN. TO
THIS END, WE PROPOSE THAT THE ALLIES BE PREPARED TO STUDY, ON AN
ONGOING BASIS AND AT A HIGH LEVEL, ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ALLIANCE
SECURITY. AS A START, WE PROPOSE THAT WE BEGIN WITH A STUDY OF
THE RELATIVE IMPACT ON NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT OF WORLD
ECONOMIC TRENDS OF INFLATION, RECESSION, AND HIGH OIL PRICES. AS
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A CONTRIBUTION TO BEGIN THE DISCUSSION PROCESS, THE UNITED STATES
IS PREPARED TO PRESENT IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE A DRAFT
PAPER WITH OUR INITIAL VIEWS WHICH WOULD BE INTENDED TO SERVE AS A
STARTING POINT FOR DISCUSSION. AFTER CONSIDERATION IN THE ECONOMIC

COMMITTEE AND THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE, THE STUDY WOULD BE DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL, PERHAPS IN A MEETING REINFORCED WITH HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM OUT CAPITALS WITH POLICY MAKING RESPONSIBILITIES ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD ELICIT ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY ALL ALLIES IN A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED, IN KEEPING WITH THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED AT THE MINISTERIAL.

IN ADDITION, WE SHOULD BE ALERT FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO CONSIDER OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGE TO NATO, BEARING IN MIND THAT BY CONSULTING AS ALLIES WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO DUPLICATE IN NATO ECONOMIC NEGOTIATION AND DECISION-MAKING ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN IN OTHER FORA. WE BELIEVE THAT A CONFIDENTIAL XHANGE OF VIEWS AS ALLIES ON SECURITY-RELATED ECONOMIC ISSUES WILL NOT ONLY PROMOTE A BETTER COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF CRUCIAL ISSUES, BUT WILL REINFORCE AND EXTEND THE PRACTICE OF CLOSE CONSULTATION ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE ALLIANCE. END TEXT.

2. AT CONCLUSION OF STATMENT, I OFFERED TO DISTRIBUTE TEXT OF MY REMARKS FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLIES. ACTING SYG PANSA SAID THAT SECRETARIAT AND DELEGATIONS WOULD APPRECIATE TEXT SO THAT COUNCIL CAN DISCUSS PROPOSAL AT NEXT MEETING.

3. WE MAY RECEIVE PRELIMINARY REACTION OF ALLIES TO OUR PROPOSAL AT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 23 AFTER DELEGATIONS HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DIGEST TEXT OF MY STATEMENT. BRUCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO00320
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750188/abbrzhshi.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: . A. STATE 12084 B. USNATO 0304 C. STATE 14476
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <29 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAC MEETING JANUARY 22: AGENDA ITEM II - ANY OTHER BUSINESS: US PROPOSAL FOR STUDY OF ECONOMIC ISSUES
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, NATO
To: STATE INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006